


[Home](#)
[CEO Hotline](#)
[Viewpoint](#)
[Classified Ads](#)
[Archives](#)
[Metro.net](#) (web)

Resources

[Safety](#)
[Pressroom](#) (web)

[CEO Hotline](#)
[Metro Projects](#)
[Facts at a Glance](#)
(web)

[Archives](#)
[Events Calendar](#)
[Research Center/
Library](#)
[Metro Cafe](#) (pdf)

[Metro Classifieds](#)
[Retirement
Round-up](#)

Metro Info

[Strategic Plan](#) (pdf)

[Org Chart](#) (pdf)

[Policies](#)
[Training](#)
[Help Desk](#)
[Intranet Policy](#)

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Among the 22 rail safety specialists who graduated from the Rail Incident Investigation class, Friday, were Metro employees Carlos Razura-Anaya, Eddie Boghossian, Eric Petersen, Gary Dewater, Jaime Pulido, Joseph Daniels, Kirk Davis, Luis Castillo and Michelle Brown.



PHOTO BY BILL HEARD

Rail Accident Investigation Class Stressed Consistent Procedures

(April 30, 2004) It's important for investigators probing the causes of a rail accident to faithfully follow the same procedures, says Metro Rail General Manager Gerald Francis.

Francis was on hand, Friday, for the graduation of a group of 22 rail safety specialists who completed an intensive week-long Rail Incident Investigation class co-sponsored by Metro.

The students – nine from Metro Rail, 12 from the California Public Utilities Commission and one from Sacramento Regional Transit – studied methods of investigating collisions, highway grade crossing accidents, fires and derailments.

Francis notes that several agencies, including Metro and state and federal rail safety authorities, might be involved in a rail accident investigation. "This class will get everyone on the same page, following the process and procedures involved in accident investigation."

The federally approved course included lectures, table-top exercises and a field exercise, which involved a simulated train-automobile collision investigation.

Metro Rail Supervising Engineer Wyman Jones, a certified Transportation

Safety Institute (TSI) instructor, taught the class. Jones frequently teaches such classes around the country.

"We deem this class to be so important that we're willing to lend our own staff to TSI to teach it," says Vijay Khawani, director of Rail Operations Safety. "That helps with consistency not only within Metro, but within the regulatory agencies that are responsible for investigating rail accidents."

| [Home](#) | [Phone Directory](#) | [Forms Online](#) | [FIS Online](#)